

Fun N Fitchburg Mass in Motion Meeting minutes

May 24, 2010

3:00-4:25 PM

Veterans Room at Fitchburg City Hall

The meeting came to order approximately 3:05PM, 16 members present

The group introduced themselves

Ayn Yeagle, Nancy Fillers-MOC reviewed The Community Action Plan

The goal of the action plan is to increase active living and healthy eating through environmental, system, and policy changes—which are attainable and sustainable
The plan consists of four strategies to choose from – 2 around healthy eating and 2 around physical activity

Each of them includes a goal, objective and outcome.

The activities, timeline and key agencies are listed for each

Questions were brought up regarding safety.

The first one regarding the lack of street lights – safety issue for physical activity

One suggestion was to ask Unitil to donate lighting for a period of 5 years.

Crime and safety being one of the biggest barriers to physical activity in the parks

The need to get residents to utilize the parks –transportation to the parks and the involvement of the Parks and Recreation department- Jon Ricciutti attending the next meeting were discussed.

Adapt and implement a crime watch for those areas—being worked on by Irene in Mayor's office.

Officer Jackson suggested that the Police Chief be alerted to the program and the action plan-- may coordinate with future policing endeavors, continue present programs and implement new ones.

Ayn from MOC stated that they planned to interview the Chief as one of the stakeholders

Dottie asked that all stakeholders have access to the action plan and strategies with the minutes to this meeting—they are investigating making them available thru the Fun 'n Fitchburg website.

Suggestions on how to advertise the already existing Farmers Markets

Local cable station

School news

Local radio-WEIM

Flyers at food pantries, schools and churches

A comment to include other activities to attract business to farmers market and the need for transportation to and from the market was discussed along with the EBT machines

and the staff to run them- a suggestion to have EBT access only during certain hours was made.

Students suggested that the Fitchburg High Bands play at the farmers market

We were reminded of where the locations of the farmers markets are and activities that were associated them last year.

Officer Jackson asked where the one at Riverfront Park was going to be moved to during the construction of the park- per conversations with Sheila Lumi they are still planning for Riverfront Park – Mark Jackson suggested a plan B be considered

A discussion on having signage and the logo being displayed at the 2 restaurants that serves healthy meals and highlighting them on the Fun 'n FITchburg website.

Walkability audits were discussed and explained to the group.

The members chose one of four areas of the city to participate in walking audits

Officer Jackson asked to be involved in each of the audits.

The areas include

Main Street

Elm Street

Green Acres

Cleghorn

Suggestions of what MOC can add to their website :

Suggested links—Pictures of parks and places, before and after pictures, photos of local people at these sites, photos of local celebrities or athletes—(Erika Lawler)

Post recipes and Health living tips

Link to the YMCA

Upcoming Special events

The group is continuing gathering information as part of its assessment process such as walking audits and GIS mapping.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25pm

Next meeting will be determined according to survey monkey results.